

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 5, 2014 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Ken Masters, Mark Bacon; Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the meeting of April 21<sup>th</sup> were approved on a motion by Ken Masters and seconded by Mark Bacon.

### **RIDE RUSH**

Wanda Henderson representing Ride Rush explained that the quarterly INDOT report stated that \$82,900 can be claimed at this time but she has only requested \$59,000 in expenses for the last eight years. Ken Masters moved to sign the invoice voucher. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **ECDC**

ECDC director John McCane requested a letter of support from the county to apply for a grant for the Cherry St. Project. The 5.5 million dollar project will include roads & storm water drains to be completed in a three phase plan. It is the intention of the ECDC to include drainage in the grant funds. Motion to sign the letter of support was given by Mark Bacon. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **ZONING BOARD ISSUE**

Steve Schneider a concerned citizen referred to IC 36-7-4-909 which defines conflict of interest for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Schneider referred to Mrs. Ruth Geise being related to an employee of CGS in a request to the BZA that involved both parties. Both County Attorney, Leigh Morning and APC/BZA Attorney, Gilda Caviness agreed that there did not appear to be a conflict of interest. There was no cause for action by the Commissioners.

### **ICAP**

Kevin Polovic of Indiana Community Assistance Program announced an Indiana Housing Grant for "Blight Elimination". The award is \$7,000-\$8,000 per residential home beyond repair with a 10% cash or in-kind match. The deadline to submit is September 15<sup>th</sup> and will be awarded in October.

HUD is offering a Rehabilitation Grant called "Aging in Place" to 4-5 homes in Rush County. This is a \$15,000 grant to rehabilitate. The guidelines are you must own the house, be elderly, and meet income guidelines.

### **SHERIFF**

In a report from the Sheriff's Department, the inmate population currently stands at 47. The new sheriff truck has been delivered. Code Red a reverse 911 contract expires in July. The

sheriff is investigating a new company that has more features for the same fee. The jail inspection is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **HIGHWAY**

Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported a road closing on 450 S, west of State Rd 3 for the replacement of a culvert. A federal aid application has been submitted for CR 715 N just north of Homer for \$205,000 and County Line East for \$258,000.

Sitton requested permission to rehabilitate Bridge 138 with available funds. Ken Masters moved to allow the action. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Commissioners also granted permission to reconstruct Bridge 63 on a motion from Mark Bacon and a second from Ken Masters.

The Highway Department's monthly report was submitted.

## **AREA PLAN**

Marvin Rees, Surveyor and interim APC director returned with the proposed Fowl Ordinance. Provisions for violations and penalties within the APC ordinance were also given to the Commissioners. Mark Bacon made a motion to conduct a public hearing on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30a.m. The motion was seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried.

Mr. Rees then asked permission for the APC to hire a full time Executive Director. After much discussion, Ken Masters made the motion to allow the hiring of a director with a statement that the situation of employment may change and the position would be reviewed at the end of the year. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bruce Levi voted "No".

## **LEGAL MATTER**

County Attorney, Leigh Morning addressed a complaint from a property owner whose farm ground is inaccessible due to a Milroy land owner blocking the right of way. It was then discovered that three land owners are blocking platted streets or right of ways with buildings and debris in the town of Milroy. The County Attorney was instructed to draft letters to those involved telling them to resolve the problem or appear at the next Commissioners meeting.

Legal Council was also asked to write a letter to the Richland Township Trustee explaining the township's responsibility in a fence dispute.

## **AUDITOR**

- Congressional Interest Report was signed on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Ken Masters.
- A Tort claim has been filed against the county and submitted to the insurance company.
- Ambulance reports have been received from Rush Memorial and Anderson Township.

Bi-weekly claims were approved by Mark Bacon with Ken Masters offering a second.

Payroll claims were signed on a motion by Ken Masters. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Ken Masters offered a second. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi  
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon  
Mark Bacon

/s/ Ken Masters  
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard  
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor